

A New Mexican *Eupompha* (Coleoptera, Meloidae)

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The only species of *Eupompha* LeConte (= *Calospasta* LeConte) previously known to occur in southern México is *sulcifrons* (Champion), which has been recorded from two localities in the Rio Balsas region of Guerrero (see Selander, 1954, Jour. Kansas Ent. Soc. 27: 84). It is consequently of some interest that among the material collected by the Hoogstraal Mexican Biological Expeditions of 1940 and 1941 there are representatives of a new species of *Eupompha* from Michoacán.

Eupompha (*Eupompha*) *terminalis*, new species

Orange. Apex of mandibles, eyes, scutellum, apical fifth of elytra, and under surface black. Under surface with a greenish luster. Antennae (except basal three to five segments) and coxae infusate; pronotum is one specimen with a median and two lateral infusate marks at apex. Wings colorless except for brown apical area. Pubescence pale throughout. Length: 12-14 mm.

Vertex and upper frontal area smooth, shiny, sparsely micro-punctate, moderately, coarsely, sparsely punctate, clothed with short pubescence; under side of head more finely, densely punctate, clothed with longer pubescence. Antennae filiform, moderately compressed; segments not at all globular. Pronotum elongate, one-fourth to nearly two-fifths longer than wide; disk regular, impressed anteriorly and on midline at base; surface and pubescence of disk as on vertex, with longer pubescence on deflexed sides. Scutellum impunctate, glabrous. Elytra finely, confusedly scabro-punctate; pubescence evenly, densely distributed, semi-erect, moderately long, as long and as conspicuous as that on under surface of abdomen. Outer hind tibial spur greatly thickened, obliquely truncate, acute or subacute at apex; inner spur like outer but more acute, shorter, only about half as wide. Tarsal claws as in Fig. 9. Under surface densely punctate and pubescent; pubescence longer on thorax than on abdomen. First segment of all tarsi clothed with regular cloth-

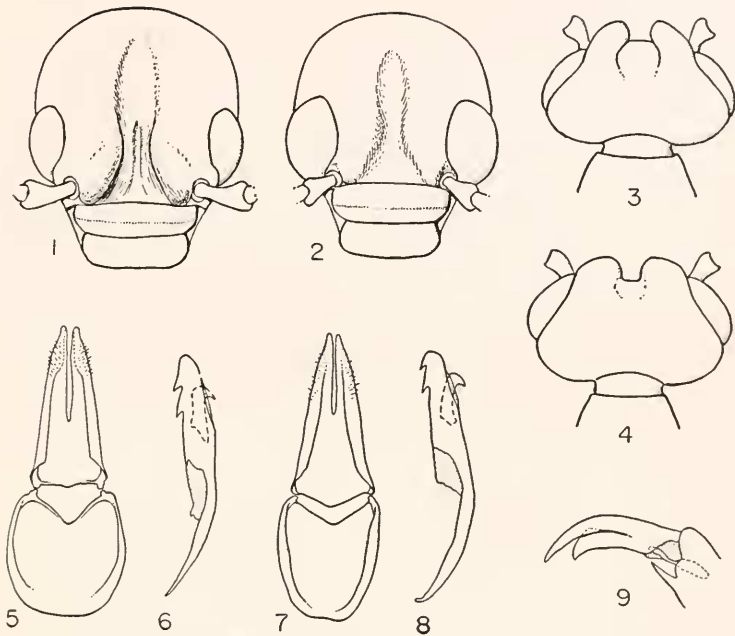
ing setae beneath, lacking the more erect, sericeous pubescence which on other segments constitutes the tarsal pads.

Male: Antennae extending five segments beyond occiput, weakly tapered to apex. Front of head (Figs. 1, 3) with a very broad, very deep, impunctate, glabrous channel extending from epistomal suture to near center of vertex (not attaining occiput); a well-marked sulcus on midline at bottom of channel between eyes; frontal area from top of eyes to epistomal suture greatly swollen on each side of channel to form a pair of large callosities which are strongly undercut by channel; top of callosities very finely punctate, sparsely clothed with a few minute setae. First four segments of fore tarsi greatly thickened; dorsal side swollen, subimpunctate, glabrous, not sulcate. Sixth abdominal sternum moderately deeply, obtusely emarginate. Genitalia as in Figs. 5-6.

Female: Antennae extending three segments beyond occiput, not tapered. Front of head deeply impressed along midline from epistomal suture to near center of vertex; midline itself clearly indicated at bottom of this impression. Sixth abdominal sternum shallowly, triangularly notched at apex.

Type Material: *Holotype* male from Apatzingán, 1200 ft., Michoacán, August 13, 1941, [H.] Hoogstraal. *Allotype* female, same data but August 21, 1941. *Paratypes*: one female, same data but August 18, 1941; one male, one female, same locality, semi-desert scrub, August 5, 1940, [H.] Hoogstraal and [K.] Knight. Holotype and allotype in the U. S. National Museum.

This species is readily distinguishable from all other species of *Eupompha* on the basis of color. It is in all respects most similar to *sulcifrons*. In structural characters *sulcifrons* differs from *terminalis* mainly as follows: frontal channel of male lacking sulcus at bottom, not undercutting frontal callosities (Figs. 2, 4); frontal impression of female wider, more evenly rounded in cross-section; eyes larger, more prominent; elytral pubescence distinctly shorter and sparser; first four segments of male fore tarsi proportionately wider; male genitalia (Figs. 7-8) with gonocoxal (basal) piece proportionately narrower, gonostyli separated for less than half their length, and ventral hooks of aedeagus more apical in position.



FIGS. 1, 3. *Eupompha terminalis*, frontal and dorsal views of male head. FIGS. 2, 4. *E. sulcifrons*, same. FIGS. 5-6. *E. terminalis*, ventral view of male gonoforceps and lateral view of aedeagus. FIGS. 7-8. *E. sulcifrons*, same. FIG. 9. *E. terminalis*, tarsal claw (middle leg).

The morphological distinctness of *terminalis* and *sulcifrons* notwithstanding, the possibility that these two forms are races of a single species cannot be overlooked. So far as known, both are confined to the hot, arid valley system of the Río Balsas. The few distributional data available suggest allopatry, *sulcifrons* presumably ranging along the valley of the Río Balsas proper and being replaced by *terminalis* in the valley of the Río Tepalcatepec, a tributary of the Río Balsas. In all probability the ranges of the two forms are in contact, in which case it will be possible to determine their true taxonomic status through further field work.

For a description of the physiography and vegetation of the Apatzingán area see Leavenworth (1946, Amer. Midland Nat. 36: 137-206, illus.).